

# MINUTES

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Two Civic Center Plaza 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Community Development Conference Room

Tuesday, February 16, 2006

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There being a quorum; Jim Welshimer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Welshimer  
Ana Duenez  
Barbara Esparza  
Billie Brown  
Miguel Grijalva  
Trini Acevedo  
John Doering

### MEMBERS ABSENT

No absences

### STAFF PRESENT

Nathalie Prise, CD Director  
Anthony Shaar, Grants & Program Administrator  
Eleanor Love, Senior Grants Planner  
Tom Serrano, Senior Grants Planner  
Michele Ellington, Grants Planner  
Judy Sarabia, Grants Planner  
Judy Emmons, Grants Planner  
Yolie Cedillo, Recording Secretary

### AGENDA

1. **Discussion and Action on Steering Committee Absences – Chairperson**  
  
No absences.
2. **Presentation by the Spokesperson of the Homeless, Emergency Shelter and Housing Services Collaborative, and Review by the Steering Committee of the Following 32nd Year (2006-2007) Homeless, Emergency Shelter and Housing Services Collaborative Proposals:**

**A. Center Against Family Violence (Emergency Shelter for Survivors of Domestic Violence)**

Sylvia Jurado, Member of Coalition for the Homeless: We seek to serve a seamless continuum of care for the homeless. Eleven agencies submitted proposals and we selected 9 of those agencies for funding. The Opportunity Center had 2 proposals. One was for the homeless women in transition and they pulled their proposal because funding was limited. The other agency not recommended for funding was Hospice because we felt their proposal was not in keeping with some of the collaborative values that include the participants having independence and self-sufficiency. The 11% decrease in funding was reflected in each of the projects.

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the Center Against Family Violence past and current contract performance.

Gloria Terry, Executive Director Against Family Violence: We provide shelter for approximately 100-110 residents on a daily basis. I am available for any questions you might have.

John Doering: On the first page of your proposal under project funds you state some clients are served through emergency shelter funds?

Gloria Terry: Some clients are referred from other agencies so we assign a specific set of clients to be served under Emergency Shelter Grant funds.

Jim Welshimer: The length of stay increased by about 20%. Why is that?

Gloria Terry: Our analysis shows 3 factors: There is a wait to get into transitional living centers; there is some difficulty in obtaining protective orders; and some clients have immigration issues.

**B. Centro San Vicente, Inc. (Homeless Health Clinic)**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the Centro San Vicente's, Inc. past and current contract performance.

Sona Kumar, Grant Specialist: One important feature about our clinic is that we are able to link patients to other helpful services from our clinic site located on Alameda Ave. Something that is fairly new at Centro San Vicente is that we are able to offer emergency shelter services to our homeless clients. We also have our mental health and counseling services center on site at the Opportunity Center.

Jim Welshimer: You are showing a \$500,000.00 in third party fee payments for next year, why is that?

Ruben Paredes: One of the reasons is because we were receiving funding from Community Voices but that program was discontinued.

**C. Child Crisis Center of El Paso (Emergency Shelter and Crisis Nursery)**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the Child Crisis Center's past and current contract performance.

Al Velarde, Executive Director for Child Crisis Center: We serve children throughout the city from newborns to 12 years of age and the funds we are currently seeking are for staff salaries. We have childcare workers that take care of the children in the facility. By state licensing regulations we have to meet ratios for the children we care for. In our nursery the ratio would be one staff person for every 4 toddlers or infants. In the shelter for the children the ratio would be 1 to 8.

John Doering: You are going to have a \$40,000.00 shortfall in funding?

Al Velarde: Yes in our budget but last year was our 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and we obtained additional funding through fundraising activities to make up for that.

**D. El Paso Center for Children (Transitional Living for Homeless Teen Youth)**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the El Paso Center for Children's past and current contract performance.

Sandy Rioux, Director of El Paso Center for Children: I don't have anything to add to the merit of the proposal but I am available for questions.

Billie Brown: You are to be commended for having such a low unit cost and exceeding your projections for the 30<sup>th</sup> year and meeting your goals this year. That shows the money is being spent responsibly.

Jim Welshimer: One of your goals is for your clients to achieve self-sufficiency and avoid long-term dependence on public assistance. How successful is that?

Sandy Rioux: We divide the clients into 3 groups. When they finish our program: One third of the girls go to independent living, one third of the girls are reunited with their families and one third are susceptible to the promises of undependable young men.

**E. Hospice of El Paso (Hospice Care for Homeless El Pasoans)**

Judy Sarabia has no reports for Hospice as it was not recommended for funding.

No representative was present.

**F. La Posada Home, Inc. (Transitional Living Center)**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of La Posada Home, Inc.-Transitional Living Center's past and current contract performance.

Monica Almuina, Director of La Posada: We took control of this project in September 1, 2005. La Posada is an 11-apartment unit for families. This is the only transitional living center that takes male children over the age of 12 because they are usually separated the children from their families. Since we live in very close quarters it lends itself to problems. We are also able to serve the male parent since most of the time we serve only mothers with their children.

John Doering: The staff didn't think very highly of your proposal.

Billie Brown: The problem with a poor proposal is that we are left wondering how well the money is going to be utilized and whether you can accomplish your mission.

Monica Almuina: I have been the director of La Posada for 6 years and when I took over we had a budget of \$40,000.00 and we were able to help only 20 clients. At the present time we are serving 200 clients. I run 2 facilities and now we own the facility where these clients reside.

#### **G. La Posada Home, Inc. (La Posada Home)**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of La Posada Home, Inc.'s past and current contract performance.

Monica Almuina, Director of La Posada: Our program has expanded since I took over the program. We offer anyone that comes an opportunity to receive our services and change their situation.

John Doering: Your project was under funded by \$26,000.00. How will you make it up?

Monica Almuina: With fundraisers. This year is our anniversary so we will be holding a gala event with special speakers to will help raise monies.

Jim Welshimer: What is the average stay of a family receiving services?

Monica Almuina: Six to eight months. There are some families that do need more time due to issues. If they would exit the program then they would not have a safety net.

#### **H. Opportunity Center for the Homeless (Homeless Women in Transition)**

Ray Tullius, Director of Opportunity Center withdrew request for this project.

**I. Opportunity Center for the Homeless (Centro de los Trabajadores Agricolas Frontizeros)**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of Sin Fronteras past and current contract performance.

Ray Tullius, Director of the Opportunity Center: I was asked to help support Sin Fronteras with their bid.

Jim Welshimer: These workers come and work for some time, leave and then return?

Ignacio Ibarra: Yes, we have different groups of farm workers that transition during the seasons and with the harvest.

Jim Welshimer: When you're not at capacity during the season what do you do?

Ignacio Ibarra: We still have workers that stay with us because we not only provide shelter. We provide other social services as well.

Ana Duenez: Do you provide transportation?

Ignacio Ibarra: No, we provide tokens.

**J. Project Vida (Homeless Prevention and Recovery)**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of Project Vida's past and current contract performance.

Bill Schlesinger: We are the other transitional living center that serves males in our shelter. We have been affected by the loss of the Border Fund. Another element of the proposal is that we have people working with recipients who aren't reflected here because they are not funded through these monies so we don't show an in kind match. This particular grant source is for us to work with families to avoid homelessness.

**K. YWCA El Paso Del Norte Region (YWCA Sara McKnight Transitional Living Center)**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the YWCA Sara McKnight Transitional Living Center's past and current contract performance.

Sylvia Jurado, Administrator of the YWCA Transitional Living Center: Our average length of stay is around 12 months. I can say that you don't go from being a homeless person to being self-sufficient right away and a transitional living center fills that gap. I prefer that the number of people I serve be lower

because that means that when the numbers are higher I am getting a high turnaround of people not staying in the program.

John Doering: Do you help them develop a plan or do you direct them to the source - say for housing and education?

Sylvia Jurado: Our clients sign a contract with us and they are required to list what they feel they need the most. We have case managers who supply sources for these needs.

**3. Citizen Comments on Item #2**

None.

**4. Discussion and Recommendation by the Steering Committee Regarding the Funding Distribution Under the Homeless, Emergency Shelter and Housing Services Collaborative**

Miguel Grijalva makes a motion and is seconded by Billie Brown to approve funding distribution under the Homeless, Emergency Shelter and Housing Services Collaborative as a whole. Motion passes.

**5. Presentation by the Spokesperson of the Emergency Shelter Grant Collaborative, and Review by the Steering Committee of the following 2006-2007 Emergency Shelter Grant Program Collaborative Proposals:**

**A. Center Against Family Violence, Inc.**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the Center Against Family Violence, Inc. past and current contract performance.

Gloria Terry: 967 people were rendered homeless due to domestic violence of some sort. We are working with Adult Probation Services and they have assigned 2 community supervision officers for domestic violence cases. If one of their probationers re-offends in a family violence case they now have the ability to remove the offender from the home so the family does not have to be displaced. We are also working with the District Attorney's office to ensure their safety when a victim is willing to prosecute because it puts their life in danger causes the victim to have an extended stay in a shelter but.

**B. Child Crisis Center of El Paso**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the Child Crisis Center's past and current contract performance.

Al Velarde: Our focus is to provide shelter for children in crisis or who are in danger of being neglected or abused. We provide shelter for up to 30 days. We also work with CPS. In a situation where the child needs to be in our shelter for longer than 30 days then we contact CPS and they assume custody of the child to place them in foster care or make arrangements to leave the child in our care for longer than 30 days.

John Doering: What do you do for public relations?

Al Velarde: We have 2 grants that we use for public awareness.

### **C. El Paso Center for Children**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the El Paso Center for Children's past and current contract performance.

Sandy Rioux, Director of El Paso Center for Children: Our ESG funds help support the operating costs of the runaway shelter that consists of 3 buildings. We have recruited Julio Gutierrez as a member of our Board of Directors and was formerly homeless.

### **D. El Paso Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center's past and current contract performance.

Roberto Rinaldi, Supportive Housing Supervisor: Our Emergency Shelter Grant is used strictly for homeless prevention to assist an average of 4,000 consumers. A caseworker assigned to our client will make the referral to us and we will screen the consumer as to their needs and use the funds to avoid evictions from homes or loss of utilities.

### **E. La Posada Home, Inc.**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of La Posada Home's, Inc. past and current contract performance.

Monica Almuina: The funds I am requesting are for staff salaries.

John Doering: What is your total budget?

Monica Almuina: \$425,000.00

### **F. Opportunity Center for the Homeless (Emergency Night Shelter/Day Resource Center)**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the Opportunity Center for the Homeless Emergency Night Shelter/Day Resource Center past and current contract performance.

Ray Tullius, Director for Opportunity Center: This proposal talks about our center that is actually a resource center. We deal with some of the hardest to serve homeless people. Police bring in people to us 2-3 a night. Last month they brought in 90 people. This money brings in over \$230,000.00 on top of what is being requested.

Jim Welshimer: What is miscellaneous income of \$172,800.00 used for?

Ray Tullius: It has to do with private foundation grants such as People Access to Justice, The Community Foundation, The Border Aids Foundation and The Hogg Foundation.

Jim Welshimer: I noticed salaries will go down but fringe benefits are going to go up? I also noticed utilities, occupant expenses, medicines and facilities maintenance reserves will go down?

Ray Tullius: Everything is decreasing due to the loss of grants. The city helps me provide a base of funding from which I can draw other sources of funding.

### **G. Opportunity Center for the Homeless in Partnership with Sin Fronteras**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of Sin Fronteras past and current contract performance.

Ignacio Ibarra: Our center has been in existence for approximately 10 years. We deal with migrant farm workers all year round; they come and go 24 hours a day including holidays. I am available for questions.

### **H. Project Vida**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of Project Vida's past and current contract performance.

Bill Schlesinger: I am available for questions.

John Doering: What length of time can your clients reside at the center?

Bill Schlesinger: Up to 24 months. We have a 60% success rate in terms of them obtaining permanent housing once they exit the program.

Jim Welshimer: Are the recipients of your services from this city or are they transients?

Bill Schlesinger: Most are from the city but from all sorts of backgrounds. I tend to refer transients to the Opportunity Center or emergency shelters. When a unit becomes available we look for a family in a shelter that we think will make it.

Billie Brown: What percentage of clients stay for the full 24 months?

Bill Schlesinger: About 60-65%. We have a full range of services available to help them on their way.

### **I. Rescue Mission of El Paso, Inc.**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the Rescue Mission's past and current contract performance.

Juana Ortega, Assistant Director for Rescue Mission: On an average we have about 150-200 people staying at our site daily. I wanted to add that in addition to meals we provide sack lunches for our workers, for the children that attend school and for the people that have doctor appointments. The funds we are requesting are for the food program.

### **J. The Salvation Army**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the Salvation Army's past and current contract performance.

Major Ron Wildman: We at the Salvation Army are a full service family shelter. We have men, women and children there. We have had newborns arrive at the shelter needing significant medical attention and we set up private rooms for visiting nurses to tend to them. We have an 85% success rate where we move people into some sort of permanent housing. The funds we are requesting are for operational costs.

### **K. YWCA El Paso Del Norte Region**

Judy Sarabia informed the committee of the YWCA's past and current contract performance.

Sylvia Jurado: Our facility functions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our ESG funds are used for operations and homeless prevention. Included in the proposal is a job description for an Outreach Advocate and part of the funds are used to pay that person's salary. This person works out in the community trying to find permanent housing for our clients and that person also tracks the participants once they have left the program.

John Doering: You submit a variety of proposals and each of them has a total budget. Is that total for everything the YWCA does?

Sylvia Jurado: For proposals we have to submit a total budget for the YWCA and then a total budget for my projects.

**7. Citizen Comments on Item #5**

None

**8. Discussion and Recommendation by the Steering Committee Regarding the Funding Distribution Under the Emergency Shelter Grant Collaborative**

Trini Acevedo makes a motion and is seconded by all Steering Committee members to approve the funding distribution for the Emergency Shelters. Motion passes.

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting is adjourned at 7:25 p.m.